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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/388,609      | 09/02/1999  | FISSEHA MEKURIA      | 2466-36             | 4221             |

7590 12/14/2001

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ARLINGTON, VA 22201

EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2641

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/388,609

Applicant(s)

MEKURIA, FISSEHA

Examiner

Angela A. Armstrong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2001.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Basore et al (US Patent No. 5,752,232) in view of Gupta et al (US Patent No. 5,515,475).

3. Regarding claims 1-2, 6-7, and 12, Basore et al teaches:

Vocabulary and different groups of words at col. 4, lines 22-29

Speaking voice commands at col. 4, lines 52-56

Selecting from plurality of groups based on words spoken by user at col. 5, lines 9-40

Speaking voice commands into a mobile telephone at Figure 1, col. 2, lines 18-48.

Basore et al teaches that the vocabulary is stored in a database or dictionary, but does not specifically disclose the structure as a trellis. However, refer to Gupta et al who teach a speech recognition method, which implements trellis/tree structures for matching spoken utterances to stored vocabulary words (abstract: col. 4, lines 4-14) for the purpose of reducing the time taken to match a vocabulary word to a spoken utterance and thereby reducing recognition time delay without sacrificing accuracy of recognition (col. 2, lines 12-20).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of invention to modify the voice activated recognition system of Basore et al to implement the trellis/tree recognition methods of Gupta et al, for the purpose of reducing the time taken to match a vocabulary word to a spoken utterance and thereby reducing recognition time delay without sacrificing accuracy of recognition, as suggested by Gupta et al.

4. Regarding claims 3 and 8, Basore et al teaches output of words to be recognized at col. 5, lines 9-40.

5. Regarding claims 4 and 9, Basore et al teaches a voice prompter at col. 4, lines 13-21.

6. Regarding claims 5, 10, 11, and 13, Basore et al do not specifically teach an automatic word group generation system, however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of invention to modify Basore et al to generate new groups or menus of words when the size of the word list exceeds a certain number, for the purpose of reducing the number of words output to the user during enunciation or display of active vocabulary words.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments filed October 3, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

8. Applicant argues that Basore fails to disclose or suggest selection of a group of words based on a word spoken by a user, and thereafter in subsequent speech recognition processes searching only that selected group of words for recognizing speech input. In response, the examiner argues that Basore teaches that the system has access to a plurality of applications for which the phonetic spellings of certain words used in a particular application are available to the device (col. 4, lines 22-29) and the user issues a first command (col. 4, line 49) to select one of the applications. When the user speaks the command "Help", the system provides the active vocabulary of the selected application (col. 5, lines 20-31). Col. 5, lines 31-40 further illustrates the exchange of commands from the user and responses from the system using the selected TV schedule application. Thus, the user issuing the spoken command of "TV schedule" selects the TV schedule application and activates (or selects) the TV schedule vocabulary. Thereby yielding a selection of a group of words from a plurality of groups of words, in which the selected group is based on words spoken by a user, so that a limited group of words, less than said plurality of groups of words, are searched during subsequent speech recognition processes.

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

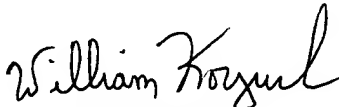
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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 703-308-6258. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William R. Korzuch can be reached on 703-305-6137. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-6306 for regular communications and 703-308-6296 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

AAA  
December 13, 2001

  
WILLIAM KORZUCH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800